United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1405
2 June 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council calls upon all parties to comply with results of Cambodian elections; expresses intention, following certification of elections, to support the duly-elected assembly; urges international community to contribute actively to reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country.

+ Targeting of humanitarian convoys by parties to Bosnian conflict, which resulted in death of six relief workers and injury of seven others, termed as "totally unacceptable" by Security Council; UNHCR suspends airlift to Bosnia.

+ Leaders of two communities in Cyprus decide to resume their joint talks no later than Monday, 14 June, for "rapid and clear decision" on Varosha and Nicosia International Airport.

+ Over 80 per cent of votes counted after Cambodian election; FUNCINPEC, with 45.4 per cent, leads CPP, with 38.4 per cent; UNTAC, after examining allegations of irregularities, confident that CPP will accept election results.

+ Secretary-General, on second day of visit to Morocco, tells King Hassan II of efforts undertaken so far to bridge gap between points of view on criteria of registration in Sahara referendum.

+ World Environment Day on 5 June to focus on poverty and environment.

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The Security Council this afternoon called on all Cambodian parties to stand by their obligation to respect fully the results of last week's elections and urged them to do all in their power to bring about the peaceful establishment of a democratic government, in accordance with the terms of the new constitution.

The Council took this action by unanimously adopting resolution 835 (1993), which also expressed the intention of Council members, following

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certification of the elections, to support fully the duly-elected constituent assembly in its work of drawing up a constitution, in accordance with the Agreement on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia conflict.

The resolution endorsed the declaration of the Secretary-General's Special Representative Yasushi Akashi to Cambodia's Supreme National Council that the conduct of the election had been free and fair. It also urged the international community to contribute to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Cambodia.

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The targeting of humanitarian convoys by the parties to the Yugoslav conflict, which in the past four days has resulted in the death of six relief workers in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the injuring of several others, was termed as "totally unacceptable" by the Security Council in a statement issued last night by its President Juan Antonio Yañez-Barnuevo (Spain).

Two Danish civilian truck drivers working for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and one interpreter were killed yesterday and four wounded by an explosion on the route from Zenica to Maglaj. On 29 May, three Italian drivers working for a non-governmental organization were killed in a similar attack. The United Nations Protection Force is investigating the incidents.

In last night's statement, the Council said the deaths were a stark reminder of the risks being run by brave civilian personnel from around the world in their effort to bring humanitarian aid to the suffering civilian population of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The attacks are still being investigated by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Members of the Council also deplored the killing of a Uruguayan member of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) on 31 May, in an attack against a convoy in Kompong Cham province in Cambodia. A Polish member of UNTAC was seriously wounded in the same attack, which is being investigated.

Meanwhile, a United States transport plane was hit by small arm fire in Bosnia yesterday en route to Sarajevo, according to a United Nations spokesman today. As a result, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has indefinetely suspended the airlift to the area, he said.

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The leaders of the two communities in Cyprus -- the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots -- have decided to resume their joint talks no later than Monday, 14 June, in order to reach a "rapid and clear decision" on Varosha and Nicosia International Airport, according to a statement issued at Headquarters yesterday evening. The leader of the Turkish community, H.E. Rauf Denktash, repeated his intention to undertake consultations in Cyprus and with the Government of Turkey.

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The talks, which resumed last month, are being held based on the Set of Ideas, put forward by the Secretary-General. The document includes a list of confidence-building measures, including arrangements for reopening Nicosia Airport and placing the area of Varosha under United Nations administration.

Last night's talks were chaired by Joe Clark, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cyprus. For the first time during the negotiations, the President of the Security Council and representatives of the Permanent Members of the Council attended the meetings.

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More than 3,200,000 valid ballots, or more than 60 per cent of the total cast, have been counted since the United Nations-supervised election in Cambodia ended on Friday, a United Nations spokesman said today. The Front Uni National pour un Cambodge indépendant, neutre, pratique et coopératif (FUNCINPEC) has so far received 45.4 per cent of the valid votes, with the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) getting 38.4 per cent.

Tonight, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) was to release a document dealing with allegations of irregularities in the election process, the spokesman said. UNTAC was confident that the CPP would be satisfied with the document, and that it would accept the election results if the process was determined to have been free and fair by the Secretary-General's Special Representative Yasushi Akashi. UNTAC regretted that the CPP had withdrawn its party agents from some provinces and hoped that the decision would be reviewed.

No serious violent incidents had been reported in Cambodia in the past 24 hours, the spokesman added.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, on the second day of his visit to Morocco, held a meeting this afternoon with King Hassan II during which he underlined the efforts undertaken so far to bridge the gap between the points of view on the criteria of registration in the Sahara referendum.

The Security Council on 2 March, under resolution 809 (1993), had urged the parties concerned with the question of Western Sahara to cooperate with the Secretary-General towards a referendum on self-determination for the Territory.

Earlier talks between the Secretary-General and King Hassan II were attended by the Special Representative for Western Sahara, Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, and Morocco's Foreign Minister and Minister of the Interior and Information, and the country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

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The talks were considered "positive and constructive", according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General had said that he was optimistic that a solution would be found to the question of the Western Sahara.

This morning, the Secretary-General met with the French Ambassador to Morocco. He was scheduled to leave Rabat later today for Algiers.

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This year's observance of World Environment Day on Saturday, 5 June, will focus on the relationship between poverty and the environment, according to a press release issued by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Day is being celebrated annually on the opening day of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment, which was held in Stockholm in 1972.

According to the press release, UNEP Executive Director Elizabeth Dowdeswell has stated that "the poor use fewer resources, create less waste and do less harm to the global environment than the rich". Wasteful over-consumption remains the "single most powerful threat to the world's environment", she says.

This year, the main international celebrations will be held in Beijing where a special ceremony will recognize the outstanding contributions of a number of individuals and organizations to the protection of the environment.

The UNEP says that nearly one-fourth of humanity lives in absolute poverty, with 400 million people obtaining only four-fifths of the food they need. Half of all people in developing countries do not have safe water to drink and 25,000 people die every day from waterborne diseases.

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